

Remarks

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, 5-19, and 22 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 19, and 22 being independent claims. Claim 20 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 19, and 22 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the original specification, and therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3, 5-18, 19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims have been amended in view of the Examiner's comments. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,144,835 (Inoue et al.). That rejection is moot since Claim 20 has been cancelled.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, entry of this Amendment, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'B. L. Klock', is written over a horizontal line.

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